

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 043280
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE: SWWORREL

APPROVED BY EUR:RVINE

S/S - A. OTTO

EUR - RDVINE

E - RCOOPER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 043280

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:PFOR, US, UK

SUBJECT:MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 32621

1. FOLLOWING FYI IS TEXT OF PM CALLAGHAN'S FEBRUARY 21

REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER (REFTEL) ON THE SUMMIT:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, VERY MANY THANKS FOR
YOUR LETTER OF 12 FEBRUARY ABOUT VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S
RECENT VISIT HERE - WHICH I GREATLY VALUED - AND ABOUT THE
PROSPECT OF A FURTHER SUMMIT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT OF THE INDUSTRIALISED DEMOCRACIES.

I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOUND A GENERAL
CONSENSUS ON HIS RECENT TRIP THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE

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USEFUL, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE HELD IN LONDON IN THE FIRST
HALF OF MAY. AS YOU KNOW, I TOO SEE VALUE IN ANOTHER MEET-
ING OF THIS KIND AND AT THIS TIME: AND I WOULD BE HAPPY
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM TO TAKE ON THE HOST COUNTRY RESPON-
SIBILITIES AS YOU SUGGEST. YOU SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST TIM-
ING MIGHT BE JUST BEFORE THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
10-11 MAY. THIS IS CERTAINLY ACCEPTABLE TO ME, AND I WOULD

LIKE TO SUGGEST 7-8 MAY. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU.

I NOTE THAT YOU FORESEE PARTICIPATION BY THOSE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT PUERTO RICO, BUT THAT YOU WOULD WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AS YOU SAY, THE NATURE OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION IS SOMETHING WHICH WE AND THE OTHER COMMUNITY COUNTRIES MUST NOW DISCUSS. AS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT, I SHALL NOW SET THIS DISCUSSION IN TRAIN; AND I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT MONTH, WHEN OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS POINT HAVE TAKEN PLACE. WE CAN THEN ALSO CONSIDER DETAILED QUESTIONS OF AGENDA AND PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS. I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU ON THE NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION AND I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 18 FEBRUARY INFORMING ME THAT YOU HAVE APPOINTED HENRY OWEN AS YOUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PREPARATORY WORK. I HAVE ASKED SIR JOHN HUNT TO ACT AS MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

I ALSO WELCOME WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT DISCREET POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FOUR OF US WITH BERLIN RESPONSIBILITIES, AND I HOPE THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO MEET PRIVATELY FOR THIS PURPOSE ON THE EVENING BEFORE THE MAIN MEETING BEGINS. IF THIS WAS AGREEABLE TO YOU, I WOULD SUGGEST TO PRESIDENT GISCARD AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THAT WE MIGHT START THESE DISCUSSIONS ON THE AFTERNOON OF 6 MAY.

FOR THE TIME BEING, WE SHALL DEFER ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS HERE ABOUT THE PRECISE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING.

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I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THIS - AND MANY OTHER SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO US BOTH - DURING MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH. YOURS SINCERELY, JIM CALLAGHAN

END TEXT.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE043280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SWWORREL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770066-1381
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977026/aaaaaesr.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f93acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 32621
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3369366
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, PPDC, US, UK, (CARTER, JIMMY), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f93acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009